

NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT



Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
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and
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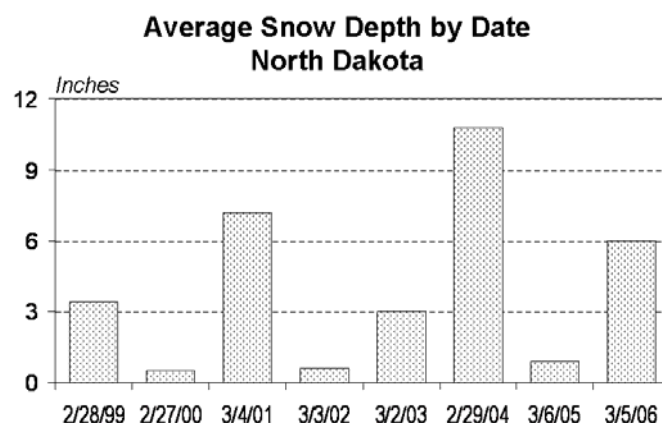
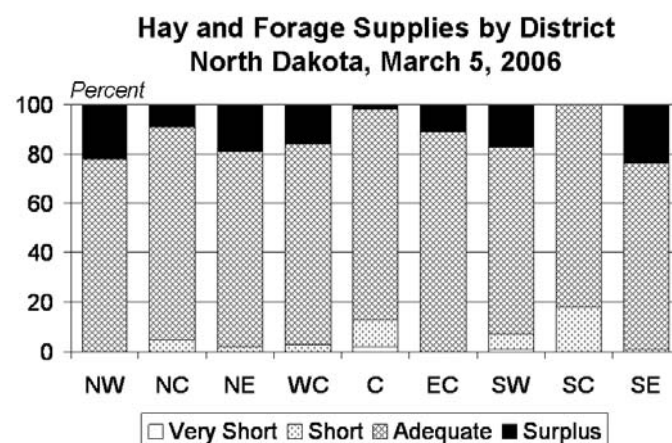
General: Weather conditions during February were colder than January, but near normal levels, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Snowfall amounts varied greatly across the state with the largest totals in the northeast. Overall, weather conditions have been favorable for livestock, but grain storage problems continued to be reported. Hay and forage supplies were rated 94 percent adequate to surplus. Some grain was moved to elevators as space became available and seed was being cleaned for the upcoming planting season.

Statewide, average snow cover was 6.0 inches on March 5, compared with 0.9 inches a year ago. The northeast and east central districts reported the most snow cover with 15.7 and 13.8 inches, respectively. Conversely, the south central district reported no snow cover and only 0.1 of an inch was reported in the southwest district.

County and secondary roads were rated 82 percent open, 14 difficult and 4 closed to travel. Road conditions were 12 percent drifted, 23 icy, 4 muddy and 61 dry.

Crops: As of March 5, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 68 percent poor, 25 adequate and 7 excellent. Snowfall in the northeast quarter of the state increased snow cover for the winter dormant crops; however, producers in many areas remained concerned about the lack of adequate protection. Farmers were busy considering crop options and purchasing inputs.

Livestock: During February, southwestern North Dakota experienced good weather for livestock which allowed feed supplies to last longer. Calving and lambing are in full-swing with 12 and 20 percent complete, respectively. Shearing is nearly half finished, at 43 percent complete. Cattle conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 16 fair, 69 good and 14 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent poor, 12 fair, 74 good and 13 excellent. Percent of feed obtained from pasture and range was 5 percent for cattle and 4 percent for sheep.



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Weather: The month of February turned out to be colder than the month of January, especially in the eastern half of the state, but near normal compared to monthly average temperatures. Deep snow cover in the northeastern quarter of the state helped to keep temperatures below average. Little or no snow cover in the west and central parts of the state helped to keep temperatures at or slightly above seasonal normals. Temperatures for the first half of the month started out below average in the east and above average for the western parts of the state. A few fast moving storm systems out of Canada brought windy conditions and some snowfall across the northern and eastern parts of the state. Arctic air moved in around February 17, bringing the coldest temperatures of the winter season to the entire state. Temperatures rebounded toward the end of the month to more seasonal levels. Overall the month of February finished out with temperatures slightly above seasonal normals in the west to below seasonal normals in the east. The month was also drier than normal for much of the state. The western areas saw the least precipitation while the northeast saw the greatest precipitation amounts.

Outlook, March: The month of March will start off with temperatures near to above seasonal averages for the majority of the state. The first half of the month will also see an active weather pattern. There will be several chances of precipitation across the state through March 15. Temperatures should remain above average through mid-month. A slight downturn in temperatures is possible toward the latter half of the month. The overall outlook for the month is to see near average precipitation across the west and central, to above average precipitation in the eastern parts of the state. Temperatures look to be near seasonal normals for the entire state during the month. Climatologically speaking, March is the month when many locations across the state will see a significant increase in daily average temperatures from the beginning of the month to the end.

TEMPERATURE, February 1-28, 2006

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm ^{1/}
<i>Degrees F</i>				
NORTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bowbells	43	-25	18	-4
Williston	47	-24	17	2
Mohall	42	-24	13	1
Minot	46	-23	13	2
NORTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baker	36	-27	10	0
Bottineau	37	-27	8	0
Rugby	37	-25	9	2
NORTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cando	33	-27	15	-8
Cavalier	35	-28	11	-5
Forest River	34	-30	11	-6
Grand Forks	34	-29	10	-5
Langdon	31	-31	9	-5
St. Thomas	34	-27	11	-7
WEST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hazen	49	-23	16	3
Turtle Lake	45	-23	19	-4
Watford City	48	-26	20	-1
CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Carrington	38	-24	12	-2
Harvey	39	-24	13	1
Jamestown	38	-22	15	-1
Robinson	39	-23	13	1
Streeter	38	-23	15	0
EAST CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dazey	37	-22	12	-1
Fargo	36	-23	12	-3
Hillsboro	35	-31	12	-6
SOUTHWEST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Beach	55	-24	19	3
Bowman	54	-21	19	3
Dickinson	57	-22	19	2
Hettinger	52	-19	20	2
SOUTH CENTRAL	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mandan	46	-22	16	3
Linton	43	-21	15	5
SOUTHEAST	NA	NA	NA	NA
Edgeley	39	-19	15	3
Oakes	40	-16	13	4
Wyndmere	38	-20	14	-3

^{1/} Normal is the 1971-2000 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.